



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
2 NAVY ANNEX
WASHINGTON, DC 20380-1775

MCO 1301.22B
MPP-56
29 Apr 96

MARINE CORPS ORDER 1301.22B

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: Distribution List

Subj: AVIATION/GROUND FIELD GRADE OFFICERS EXCHANGE PROGRAM

1. Purpose. To provide procedures for the Field Grade Officers Exchange Program for ground combat and aviation officers.

2. Cancellation. MCO 1301.22A.

3. Information. The title "Aviation/Ground Officers Exchange Program" is used to identify the program of exchanging ground combat officers and aviators between Marine divisions and wings. The intent of this program is to augment the warfighting capability of participating organizations and enhance an officer's professional education in Marine Air-Ground Task Force operations. Accordingly, ground combat exchange officers should be assigned to the MAW G-3, and aviators should be assigned to any T/O billet that requires an 03/08/13/18 occupational field in the division. These officers shall not be assigned to unrestricted officer billets (MOS 9910) or be employed in a manner that is inconsistent with the intent of this Order.

4. Administrative Instructions

a. Grade. Majors and captains selected for promotion to major may participate in the exchange program.

b. Tour Length. The minimum prescribed tour length shall be 24 months for ground combat officers and 12 months for aviators. CMC (MMOA) may waive tour lengths on a case-by-case basis when a waiver is in the best interest of the Marine Corps. Officers are limited to one tour in this exchange program.

c. Exchange. Each division shall be assigned one aviator, and each wing shall be assigned one ground combat officer.

d. Follow-on Tour. Officers who have completed an exchange tour ordinarily shall be assigned to a follow-on FMF billet in their primary MOS so that their exchange experience can be put to use immediately. The career pattern for ground combat officers normally will be wing to division. The career pattern for aviators normally will be division to wing. Exceptions to these career patterns will be granted on a case-by-case basis.

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5. Assignments

a. CMC (MMOA) will assign officers to the exchange program. A competitive selection process shall be employed to assign officers to this career enhancing tour.

b. Consistent with the traditions of the Naval Service, officers participating in the exchange program will not be assigned to serve under an officer who is junior in grade or rank.

c. All orders and assignments, including orders written by the CMC, will include the following phrase:

"This is an Aviation/Ground Field Grade Officers Exchange Program assignment made per the current edition of MCO 1301.22B."

6. Scope of the Program. Officers participating in the exchange program are to become integrated members involved in the detailed tasks associated with their particular billet. These billets are not to be considered as liaison billets in any sense. The primary purpose of the program is to provide an environment for aviation and ground officers to increase their understanding of the other's duties while gaining an insight into the capabilities of the air-ground team. The success of the program rests on the wholehearted support and cooperation of commanders at every level of command and the dedication of individual participating officers.

7. Reserve Applicability. This Order is not applicable to the Marine Corps Reserve.



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